Applicants retain all rights to the subject matter covered by the canceled multiple dependent claims by making these claims directly dependent on a single claim. The subject matter now not included in these claims may be reintroduced as multiple dependent claims or as separate independent or dependent claims in the present application or in a continuation and/or divisional application.

Finally, Applicants understand that, under the procedures of the PCT, a copy of the priority document, GB9804297.1, has been supplied to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office pursuant to Rule 17 of the PCT Regulations. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that the first Official Action in the present application contain an indication that the appropriate priority document is in the file of this application.

Prompt, favorable action on the subject application, as presently amended, are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles R. Wolfe, Jr.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,680

BLANK ROME COMISKY & MCCAULEY, LLP
The Farragut Building, Suite 1000
900 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: (202) 463-7700

Date: August 24, 2000